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FRIDAY
APRIL 2, 1954

George Abell came to see me this morning. Jane is ill in London with gastric ulcers and he is remaining here to do articles for Time.

John Hughes, and later André de Staercke, called me about Marshal Juin. They do not yet know whether he offered his resignation to Gruenther yesterday, but the general opinion in the NATO Council seems to be in favor of getting rid of him as a SHAPE Commander.

We had lunch with the Paul Reynauds. Reynaud had just received a gift of a large tin of caviar and, with it and other delicious food, we had a wonderful meal. Reynaud talked at great length about the situation in Indo-China. He feels that the fate of the encircled fortress of Dien Bien Phu will be settled within a few days, and it is touch and go whether it can hold out, since it is more and more difficult to supply. Regardless of that, he thinks there is no hope of obtaining a military victory in the area, certainly as long as the Chinese border remains open. He has long been an advocate of giving the Korean type of training to the native troops. For that purpose, he has also sponsored the collaboration of American officers in such training. The French Government has never permitted this to be done. Reynaud has reluctantly arrived at the conclusion that the Vietnamese have not shown capacity sufficient to take over the affairs of their own country either in the political or military spheres. He is in favor of immediately according them whatever measure of independence they want and of consulting on the highest level with the U. S. Government to see what can be done in the way of a joint policy. He is confused by the pronouncements of our own officials on the subject, in which they say that on no account must this territory be lost to Communism, and yet rely on the French so far as military direction and manpower are concerned to sustain the struggle with their own efforts, together with what assistance they derive from the associated states. He intends to raise

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the problem at a Cabinet meeting tomorrow. He appeared, as he has for some time, indignant over Laniel's inaction in bringing the EDC to a debate.

Barrett McGurn came to see me and we talked chiefly about Marshal Juin, whose recent conduct he thinks has been arrogant and impetuous. He says there is talk that he will be treated as a martyr by the anti-EDC people and will be pressed by many others to become a leading political figure. My own feeling is that the strong sentiment in France for the assertion of the power of the civil authority over the military will prevent either of these elevations taking place.

The Harcourts arrived from London to spend the week end with us.

E. and I went to dinner at the Van Vriedenbergs', who were entertaining in honor of Mr. Van Kleffens, an accomplished statesman. We had a [redacted] good evening.

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